

# Defense, Military, and Homeland Security

Sen. Brown is working to promote the safety and security of our state and our nation as well as to ensure the readiness of the United States military.

## Passing a Comprehensive *National Defense Authorization Act*

In late December, the *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA) cleared the House and Senate and was signed into law by President Obama. The NDAA:

- Keeps jobs at the Lima Tank Plant through continued investment in the M1A2 Abrams tank program. The bill included funds for Abrams tank procurement and modernization, which combined with funding from other sources, will ensure that the Lima plant can continue to operate at its current levels through Fiscal Year 2013.
- Protects jobs at the Mansfield Air National Guard Base (ANGB) and Youngstown Air Reserve Station (YARS) because of a “strategic pause” that will temporarily halt proposed changes to the C-27J program at the Mansfield ANGB and to the C-130 planes and personnel at YARS.
- Creates defense jobs across Ohio thanks to an amendment Sen. Brown authored that will expand economic development and create jobs in Licking County. The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority will reestablish its designation as a Small Business Administration (SBA) HUBZone through 2015. The designation gives small businesses in the area—or those that employ residents of the area—preferential access to federal procurement opportunities in order to encourage economic development and job creation in the region.
- Includes additional funding for the American Centrifuge Plant in Piketon that could create 4,000 jobs in Southern Ohio.

## Preventing Future Defense Cuts



We can reduce our nation’s deficit while protecting our military and our nation. In February, Sen. Brown wrote a letter to Gov. Kasich regarding the importance of developing a state-wide approach to possible future defense cuts, including any Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commissions. The letter highlighted the importance of speaking with one voice and working together with all of Ohio’s defense related sites, businesses, industries, and workforce.

In April, Sens. Brown and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) led 26 Senators in sending a letter to U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Secretary Leon Panetta urging the DoD to implement sourcing and workforce management laws and to use civilian personnel where possible as opposed to

awarding more costly private contracts. The Senators urged DoD to adhere to insourcing laws and warned against using contract personnel simply in place of civilian employees.

## Calling for Tougher Sanctions

As Iran becomes a greater threat to the U.S. and our allies around the world, it is critical that we turn up pressure on this regime. In February, Sen. Brown and his colleagues on the Senate Banking Committee voted to ratchet up the sanctions that may be applied to Iran to discourage the Ahmadinejad regime from its pursuit of nuclear weapons. The Committee's bill would also authorize new sanctions on Syria to protest its brutal crackdown on its citizens. Sen. Brown applauded the Banking Committee's passage of Iran and Syria sanctions legislation, along with passage of an amendment that he supported that would provide restitution to the families of 150 service members – including 10 in Ohio – who were victims of a 1983 Iranian terrorist attack on a Marine Corps barracks in Beirut. This legislation passed the Senate in August and will provide new sanctions targeting human rights violators in Iran and Syria.

Sen. Brown also cosponsored the *Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Human Rights Act of 2012*, which passed the Senate in May and authorizes new tools for President Obama to employ in an effort to pressure Iran into complying with international obligations. Sen. Brown helped to pass this legislation through the Senate Banking Committee with unanimous bipartisan support earlier in the year. The legislation will put further economic pressure on Iran's leaders to abandon their illicit nuclear program and support for international terrorism.

In December, Sen. Brown joined a bipartisan supermajority of Senators in sending a letter to President Obama urging the Administration to take four steps as it prepares for the possible resumption of nuclear negotiations with Iran. Led by Sens. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), and Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), the letter was signed by a total of 74 Senators. Sanctions that are currently in place have harmed the Iranian economy, although Iran continues moving forward with its nuclear program. In the letter, the Senators called for increased sanctions, support for the Iranian people, and the formation of a credible military coalition to combat the Iranian threat.

## Supporting Israel

Israel—one of our closest allies—must have the resources needed to defend its interests and protect its citizens. Among our many shared priorities, we must work together to ensure that Israel can defend itself against growing threats to its security. In April, Sen. Brown renewed his call for stronger efforts to support Israel in a meeting with American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) national leaders this week. Sen. Brown also cosponsored the *U.S.-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012*, legislation that would provide additional surplus U.S. defense resources to Israel.

On Israeli Independence Day, Sen. Brown met with 26 Ohioans during the Jewish Federation's "Mission to Washington, DC: A Day to Focus on Israel Issues" trip to discuss new legislation to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship. Sen. Brown cosponsored the *Iron Dome Support Act*, which would authorize the President to provide assistance for the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system.

Sen. Brown also cosponsored a bipartisan resolution in November reaffirming Israel's right to self-defense. The Senate resolution, originally introduced by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), expressed vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders, and recognizes and strongly supports its right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism.

## **Compensating Massacre Victims**

We must hold terrorists accountable, and accountability means that every victim's family of the 1972 Olympic Massacre is compensated—including the family of Ohioan David Berger. With the fall of the Qaddafi regime in Libya, the U.S. must seize the opportunity to compensate these families and send a clear signal to terrorist regimes that we will not rest in our fight for justice.

In February, Sen. Brown urged President Obama to begin negotiations with the Israeli and Libyan governments to provide compensation to the victims of the Munich Massacre. The Black September Organization (BSO) is responsible for the Munich Massacre at the 1972 Summer Olympic Games, which resulted in the death of 11 members of the Israeli Olympic team, including David Berger. While Libya has agreed to compensate other victims of its terrorist activities, previous attempts to engage the Libyan government on the Munich Massacre have failed. In a September letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Sen. Brown urged the State Department to press the new Libyan government to compensate the victims of terrorism sponsored by the Qaddafi regime.

## **Fighting Terror**

As Hezbollah's terrorist activities continue, the United States has an obligation to urge our allies to stand up to this terrorist organization. In a bipartisan letter to the Vice President of the European Union (EU), Sen. Brown joined a group of 74 Senators in calling on the EU to strengthen cooperation in fighting terror by adding Hezbollah to the list of terrorist organizations. Designating Hezbollah as a terrorist organization would send a clear message that the EU—along with the United States—does not tolerate acts of terror, whether carried out at home or elsewhere.